

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /132 W

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R 040912Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1717

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, JA, US

SUBJ: DEBATE ON EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA FLARES UP ANEW

REFS: (A) TOKYO 1216(NOTAL, (B) STATE 23664(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: US SENATE'S VOTE TO ESTABLISH 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE
FISHING ZONE HAS REVITALIZED AGITATION IN JAPAN FOR
UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA TO TWELVE MILES.

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CABINET DECISION (REFTELS) THAT JAPAN WILL DEFER ACTION

PENDING LOS DELIBERATIONS THIS SPRING AND SUMMER HAS BEEN SHAKEN, AND TO PRESERVE IT PRIME MINISTER MIKI ON FEBRUARY 2 PROMISED DIET THAT IN ANY EVENT JAPAN WOULD MOVE TO TWELVE MILE LIMIT BEFORE YEAR END. SOME ALSO UNDERSTOOD MIKI TO SAY THAT PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS TO BE ENCLOSED WILL BE DENIED TO SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS INTERPRETATION WAS PUT TO REST IN STATEMENT TO DIET FOLLOWING DAY BY FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA. HE STATED FLATLY THAT IF INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS RECOGNIZING FREE PASSAGE EMERGES FROM LOS CONFERENCE, JAPAN WILL CONFORM TO IT. MIYAZAWA'S STATEMENT WILL DOUBTLESS SUMMON UP FURTHER CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO PERSISTENT QUESTIONING BY OPPOSITION DEPUTIES IN BUDGETARY INTERPELLATION FEBRUARY 2, PRIMIN MIKI SAID GOJ WOULD, IN LIKELY EVENT THAT LOS TREATY NOT CONCLUDED THIS SUMMER, UNILATERALLY EXTEND TERRITORIAL SEA TO TWELVE MILES BEFORE YEAR END. MIKI ALSO PROMISED THAT GOJ WOULD " IN ANY EVENT STICK TO THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES." FONMIN MIYAZAWA, ANSWERING QUESTION ON IMPACT OF US 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE LEGISLATION, SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT JAPAN TO BE SHUT COMPLETELY OUT OF US COASTAL WATERS, AND THAT FONOFF WOULD SEEK IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING IN MAY A "PROPER" SHARE OF THE HARVEST IN THE 200 MILE ZONE.

2. MOST MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF FEBRUARY 2 BUDGET HEARINGS PLAYED MIKI'S PROMISE TO "STICK TO THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES" AS MEANING THAT WHATEVER LOS CONFERENCE MAY DECIDE, JAPAN WILL NOT PERMIT PASSAGE OF VESSELS BEARING NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH STRAITS ENCOMPASSED BY EXTENDED TERRITORIAL SEA. FONMIN MIYAZAWA SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN HEARINGS ON FEBRUARY 3. HE WAS ASKED, ACCORDING TO ASAHI ACCOUNT, "AS GOVERNMENT GOES TO TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, HOW WILL YOU RECONCILE THE FREE PASSAGE OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS AND THE THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES?" MIYAZAWA REPORTEDLY ANSWERED THAT "AS FAR AS JAPAN'S EXCLUSIVE SOVEREIGNTY REACHES, IT IS NATURAL

THAT THE THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES WILL BE APPLIED,"
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BUT "IF IN THE US LOS CONFERENCE FROM MARCH ON, RECOGNITION OF FREE PASSAGE CAN BECOME GENERALLY ACCEPTED, JAPAN WILL IN CONFORMITY TO THAT ESTABLISH DOMESTIC LEGISLATION." EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY RELIABLE FONOFF CONTACT THAT MIYAZAWA'S STATEMENT IS ACCURATE REFLECTION OF CURRENT GOJ POLICY. WE NOTE ALSO THAT, ACCORDING TO SANKEI STORY FEBRUARY 4, NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO LOS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADVOCATE TWELVE MILE

TERRITORIAL SEA AND FIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS.

3. VIEW EXPRESSED BY MIYAZAWA HAS BEEN OFTEN ATTRIBUTED BY PRESS TO "FONOFF SOURCES" IN RECENT WEEKS; THIS IS FIRST TIME IT HAS GONE ON PUBLIC RECORD. ALMOST CERTAINLY OPPOSITION WILL WEIGH IN HARD ON GOJ "PLAN TO MUTILATE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES," AND INSIST MIKI REPUDIATE MIYAZAWA STATEMENT.

4. IT APPEARED LAST WEEK (REFTELS) THAT CABINET DECISION TO SEEK IN PRINCIPLE TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA BUT AWAIT, AT LEAST FOR NEAR FUTURE, LOS CONFERENCE ACTION, HAD CAPPED INTENSE DOMESTIC AGITATION FOR EARLY AND UNILATERAL EXTENSION. HOWEVER, SENATE VOTE HAS SHAKEN FRAGILE CONSENSUS AND FORCED GOJ TO FURTHER "CLARIFY" ITS INTENTIONS. THE DIET IS RESTIVE; SOME 87 PERCENT OF THE DIETMEN ARE ON RECORD AS FAVORING PROCLAMATION OF TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

5. JAPANESE DEBATE, INCIDENTALLY, HAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA AS WELL. AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABE (WHOSE DOMAIN INCLUDES FISHERIES MATTERS), IN COURSE OF STRONG PITCH TO CABINET FOR EARLY TWELVE MILE DECLARATION, REPORTEDLY SAID SOUTH KOREANS AS WELL AS RUSSIANS ARE WREAKING HAVOC ON JAPANESE COASTAL FISHERIES. MAINICHI DAILY NEWS ON FEBRUARY 2 SAID GOJ HAS ASKED ROK TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND TO HELP ESTABLISH PRIVATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.
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